

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit comprising:
 - an optical system; and
 - a plurality of optical elements which form the optical system, wherein:
 - a plurality of optical elements, having optical axes which are aligned, are mutually cemented ~~mutually of which optical axes are aligned~~;
 - side surfaces of the optical elements [are] disposed in a surface which expands linearly in a direction of the optical axes ~~linearly~~; and
 - outer peripheries of each of the optical elements contact outer peripheries of adjacent optical elements.
2. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit which is produced by mutually cementing a plurality of optical element arrays, ~~mutually~~ which are provided with a plurality of optical elements ~~of which~~ optical axes of which are aligned such that optical axes of a plurality of the optical element arrays are aligned with the optical axes of a plurality of the optical elements and cutting the cemented optical element arrays in a direction of the optical axes of a plurality of the optical elements between the optical elements, wherein outer peripheries of each of the optical elements contact outer peripheries of adjacent optical elements.
3. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit ~~according to Claim 1~~ comprising:
 - an optical system; and
 - a plurality of optical elements which form the optical system, wherein:
 - a plurality of optical elements having optical axes which are aligned are mutually cemented;
 - side surfaces of the optical elements are disposed in a surface which expands in a direction of the optical axes linearly;
 - outer peripheries of each of the optical elements contact outer peripheries of adjacent optical elements; and
 - ~~which satisfies~~ a formula such as $1.0 < MD/ED < 4.0$ is satisfied under the condition ~~that wherein~~ a maximum outermost diameter of the image pickup lens unit in a cross

section which crosses orthogonally to the optical axes is defined as an MD and a maximum beam effective diameter in an optical system which is formed by a plurality of the optical elements is defined as an ED.

4. (original) An image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 which satisfies a formula such as $TT < 20$ mm wherein a total cutting length in a direction of optical axes of a plurality of the optical elements is defined as a distance TT.
5. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 wherein
all optical elements have a side surface which is disposed in a same surface; and
the same surface indicates a surface which expands linearly in a direction along the optical axis ~~linearly~~.
6. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit according to Claim 2 wherein the optical element arrays are formed by disposing the optical elements ~~in a second dimension~~ two-dimensionally.
7. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 which is formed by 10 or ~~less~~ fewer optical elements having a power and including at least a positive lens and at least a negative lens which is disposed so as to neighbor the positive lens.
8. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 having 10 or ~~less~~ fewer air surfaces.
9. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 wherein a surface except an optical surface in one of the optical elements is treated so as to absorb a light.
10. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 wherein an optical filter having a side surface which is disposed in the same surface as the side surface of the optical elements is cemented to one of the optical elements.

11. (currently amended) An image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 wherein a hood section having a side surface which is disposed in the same surface as the surface of one of the optical elements is cemented to the optical element.

12. (original) An image pickup device which is provided with the image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1.

13. (original) An image pickup device according to Claim 12 wherein image pickup elements are cemented to an optical element which forms a final surface in the image pickup lens unit.

14. (original) An image pickup device according to Claim 13 wherein the image pickup element has a side surface which is disposed in the same surface as the side surface of the optical element.

15. (currently amended) An image pickup unit having a plurality of optical elements which is produced by:

preparing a plurality of optical element arrays in which a plurality of optical elements ~~in a plurality of the optical elements~~ are disposed;

aligning optical axes of a plurality of the optical elements;

cementing a plurality of the optical element arrays in a direction of the optical axes of ~~[[a]] the plurality of the optical elements; [[and]]~~

cutting between the neighboring optical elements in a direction of the optical axes of ~~a[[a]] the plurality of the optical elements[[.]]; and~~

cementing outer peripheries of each optical elements so as to contact outer peripheries of adjacent optical elements.

16. (currently amended) An image pickup unit having at least three optical elements formed by a first optical element, a second optical element, and a third optical element produced by:

preparing a first optical element array in which a plurality of the first optical elements are disposed, a second optical element array in which a plurality of the second optical elements are disposed, and a third optical element array in which a plurality of the third optical elements are disposed;

aligning the optical axis of the first optical element and the optical axis of the third optical element and cementing the first optical element array and the third optical element array in the direction of the optical axes of a plurality of the optical elements;
[[and]]

cutting between the neighboring optical elements in a direction of the optical axes of a plurality of the optical elements[[.]]; and

cementing outer peripheries of each optical elements so as to contact outer peripheries of adjacent optical elements.

17. (currently amended) An image pickup unit according to Claim 16 wherein:

the optical element has a flange section which is disposed on an optical surface through which a light passes and on an outer peripheral section on the optical surface;

a protruding section is formed on an outer peripheral section of the flange section;

an interval is formed between the protruding sections which neighbor[[s]] each other in a direction of the optical axis.

18. (currently amended) An image pickup unit according to Claim 16 wherein

conditions such as $ST/TD < 0.7$ (condition 1) and $MT/TD < 0.5$ (condition 2) are satisfied under the condition that:[[.]]

TD is defined as a surface interval on the optical axis from a first surface of the optical system which is formed by the optical elements that are cemented together to the last surface of the optical system;

ST is defined as a total length of the air intervals on the optical axis; and

MT is defined as a maximum value of the length of the air intervals on the optical axis.

19. (original) An image pickup lens which is used in the image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 wherein θ is 60 degree or smaller in the optical element under condition that the θ is defined as an angle made between the optical axis in an optical surface in the optical element and a normal in an effective diameter of the optical surface.

20. (currently amended) An image pickup unit which is used in the image pickup lens unit according to Claim 1 having an cementing surface wherein a condition such as $0 < |\phi/\phi_A| < 0.5$ is satisfied under the condition that: [[.]]

ϕ is defined as a power in the lens surfaces; and

ϕ_A is defined as a power in an entire optical system in the image pickup lens unit.